

Arizona Partnership for Pollution Prevention (P3)

MINING TEAM

Background

In June 1994, the Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) invited many of Arizona's largest hazardous waste generators to form a partnership to reduce incinerable wastes. The focus was subsequently extended to the reduction of all hazardous waste and the Arizona Partnership for Pollution Prevention or P3 was formed. In November 1994, 18 founding partners were recognized by the former ADEQ director Edward Z. Fox at the HAZWaste Symposium, a conference attended by hazardous waste generators. The P3 membership now exceeds 100 partners.

P3 Mission and Goal

The P3 is a voluntary, non-regulatory, government-industry partnership to reduce hazardous waste. The goal of P3 is to reduce hazardous wastes, and to improve communication and cooperation between government and industry. Efforts include sharing information on successful reduction efforts and identifying and resolving impediments to pollution prevention.

P3 Mining Team

On November 12, 1997 BHP Copper in San Manuel, Arizona held a Pollution Prevention Seminar for the Mining Industry. The enthusiasm from this event spurred the formation of the P3 Mining Team in March 1998.

Sharing Ideas and Experience

Jim Glasston, a Senior Environmental Engineer with BHP Copper, has the following to say about the Partnership for Pollution Prevention:

“I have gained so much insight on how to improve BHP Coppers' Environmental practices from these meetings. I can't tell you how great it is to discuss issues and have others share their experiences with me. I even attended a competitor's environmental training program and have incorporated part of their training into my program.”

Pollution Prevention (P2)

Pollution prevention (P2) is a technique for reducing or eliminating pollution or waste before it is created. It can be achieved by using less hazardous raw materials or by using more efficient practices, procedures, or equipment.

Pollution prevention has the following goals:

- Eliminate or reduce the generation of waste.
- Conserve natural resources and materials.
- Prevent product losses.
- Prevent spills and releases.

P3 Provides Information

- On reducing and eliminating toxic substances and hazardous waste.
- Saving company money and resources.
- Improving process efficiency.
- Protecting the environment.
- Enhancing workers' health and safety.
- Improving environmental compliance.

Partnership Oversight

The Pollution Prevention Unit in the Waste Programs Division of ADEQ oversees the Partnership, arranges meetings, resolves impediments, and provides information. The knowledge gained is summarized and distributed to other firms in order to share the Partnership benefits with non-members.

How To Participate

Partners sign an agreement to put forth a good faith effort and set site-specific goals to reduce hazardous waste. There is no cost to join or to participate.

Quarterly meeting locations alternate among the mines, which allows each mine to share their pollution prevention achievements.

We invite non-members to attend at any time, and new partners are welcome and appreciated.